GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:226
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2004
NEWS CHANNELS
Chandel Shri Suresh;Shandil Dr. (Col.) Dhani Ram

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the correspondents of various News Channels have no hesitation in spreading rumours and misleading police to remain exclusive and number one in the competition, as reported in the Hindi daily Dainik Jagaran, dated September 22, 2004; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to restrain the arbitrariness of such News Channels so that the public may not be misled in the name of exclusive news and a healthy good impartial and honest competition may emerge and public may get factual news?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) & (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 226 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2004

(a) Yes, Sir. However, no specific complaint has been received by the Government regarding the spreading of rumours and misleading the police as regards the case reported in the Hindi daily Dainik Jagaran dated the 22nd September, 2004.

(b) Programmes of television channels transmitted or re-transmitted through the cable network are required to adhere to the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code, interalia, prescribes that no programme should be carried in the cable service, which contains anything obscene, false or suggestive innuendos etc. The Central Government can take action under Section 20 of the said Act for violation of the Programme Code. Central Government has constituted an inter-Ministerial Committee to look into violations of the Programme Code.

In accordance with the guidelines for uplinking, the channels being uplinked from India have to conform to the Programme Code and Advertising Code. The permission granted is liable to be revoked on violation of any of the guidelines.